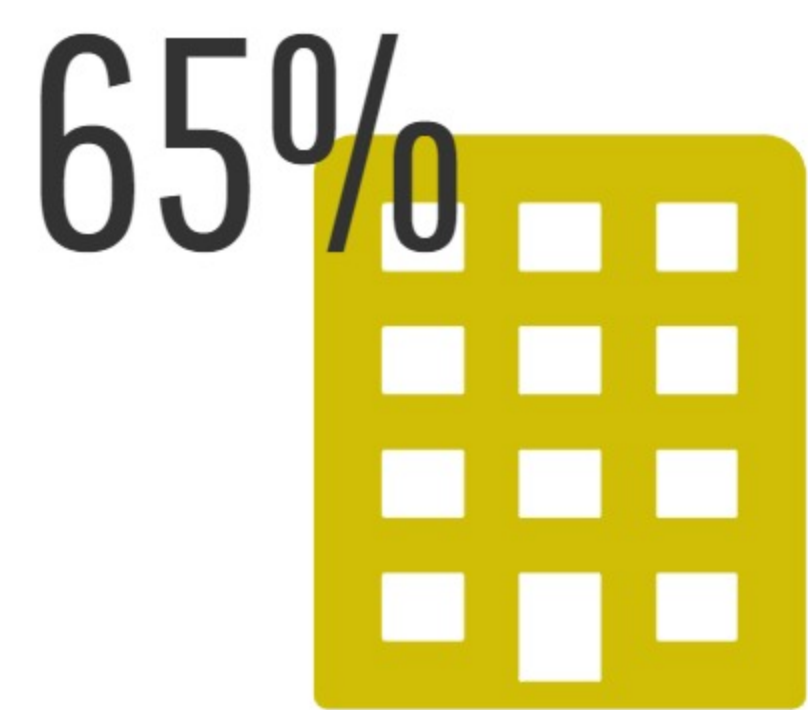


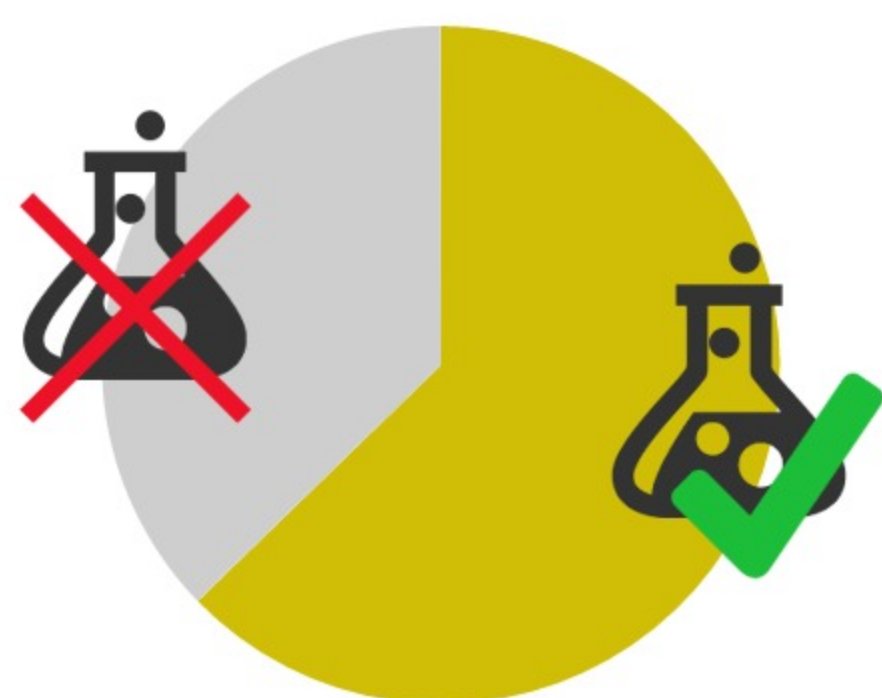
5 Interesting Facts About Norovirus in Montana



SENIOR CARE

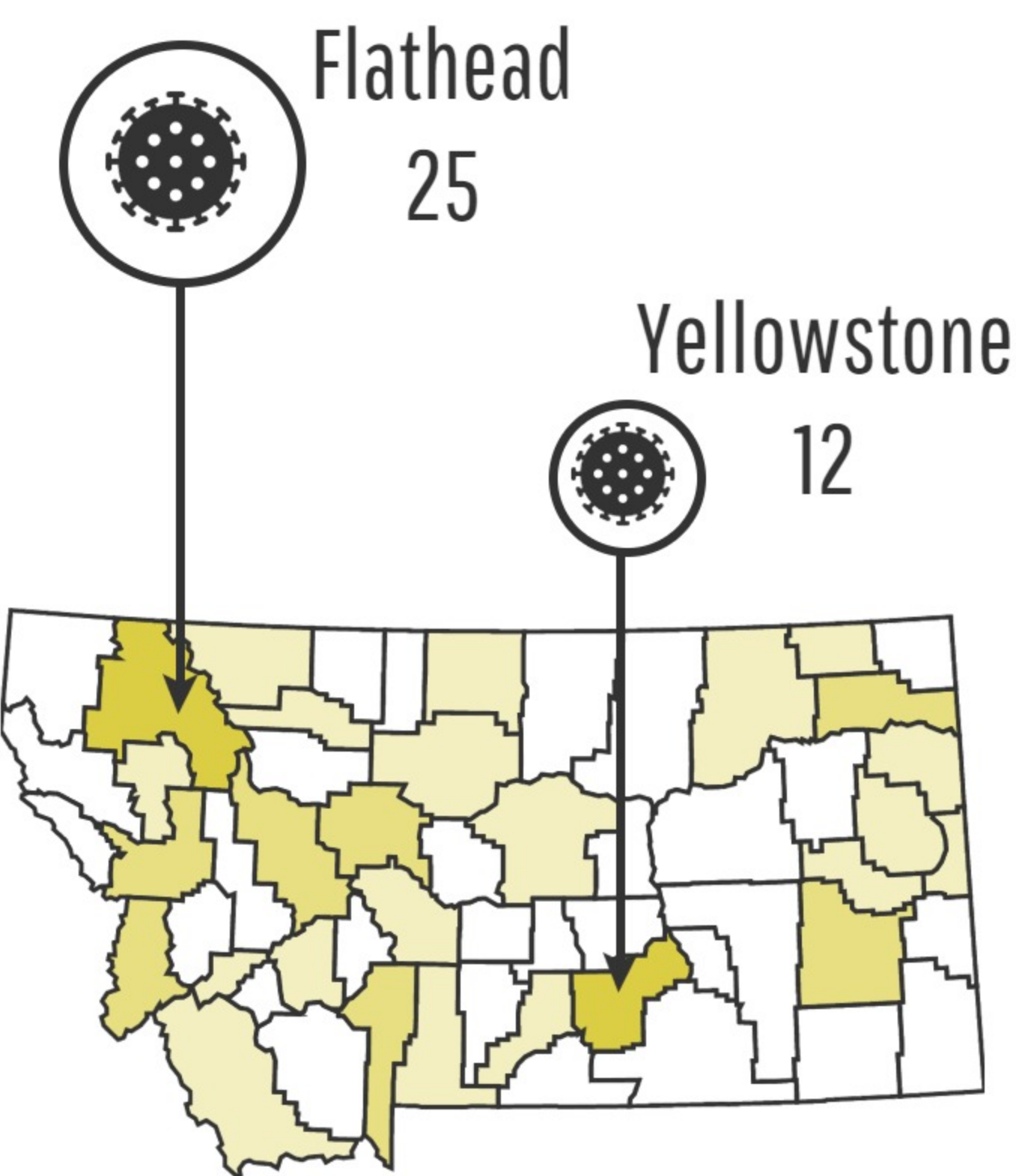
The majority of GI outbreaks occur in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

Nearly 63% of 102 outbreaks



CONFIRMED

Most acute gastroenteritis outbreaks had at least one norovirus sample confirmed.



ENDEMIC

Outbreaks are reported all over Montana with most smaller counties averaging 0-1 and the larger counties 4-5 outbreaks a year.

Though in more recent years, fewer norovirus and norovirus-like outbreaks have been reported, norovirus continues to have a tremendous impact on Montanans. Fewer outbreaks reported, meant fewer illnesses, hospitalizations and deaths associated with norovirus for Montanans. However, most cases of norovirus are not identified because individually, each case is not reportable in most counties in Montana. So it remains difficult to estimate the true burden of disease.

Cases Reported from 2013 to 2015

Hospitalized

2,805

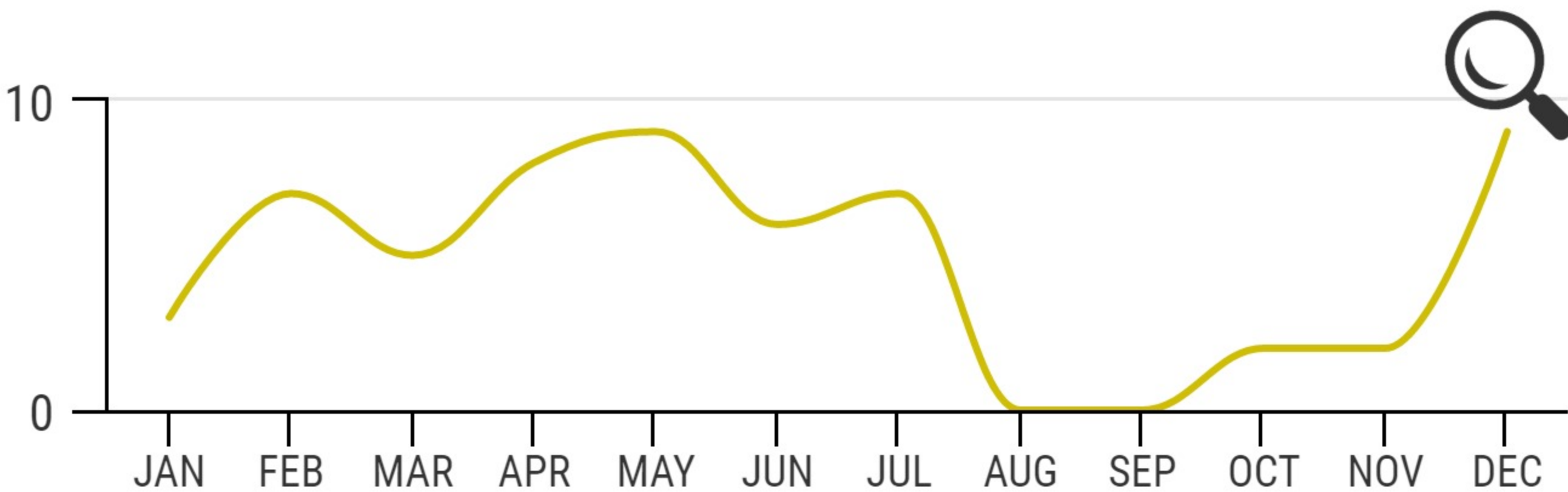
81

12

Died

IMPACT

Over the last three years, nearly 3,000 people have fallen ill as a result of norovirus or norovirus-like outbreaks, 88 were hospitalized and 12 died.



SEASONALITY

Most outbreaks are detected in the winter time, beginning in late fall to late spring.

The best way to prevent illness is to wash hands with soap and water, stay home when ill and don't prepare meals for others when ill. Avoid visiting congregate settings, such as nursing homes and schools while ill to reduce disease transmission.



Find more at dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cdepi.